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October 1984

JOB SERVICE WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Employment and Economic Indicators

WISCONSIN DATA AND SOURCES

	INDICATOR	SOURCE
L1	Composite Index of Leading Indicators	Wis.Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L2	Average Work Week, Manufacturing	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L3	Average Overtime Hours, Mfg.	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L4	Average Weekly Initial Claims	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L5	Total Job Openings Received	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L6	New Business Incorporations	Wisconsin Secretary of State
L7	Net Gain in Business Phone Access Lines	Wis. Telephone Co. and General Telephone Co.
L8	Building Plans Examined	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
C1	Help-Wanted Advertising Index (Milw.)	National Industrial Conference Board
C2	Total Unemployment Rate	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
C3	Natural Gas Sales	Wisconsin Public Service Commission
C4	New Car Registrations	Wis. Department of Transportation
C5	Electric Power Sales	Wisconsin Public Service Commission
C6	Total Securities Registrations	Wisconsin Commissioner of Securities
C7	Personal Income	"Business Week," McGraw Hill
C8	Average Weekly Earnings, Mfg.	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
C9	Cash Receipts From Farm Marketing	U.S. Department of Agriculture
C10	Contract Construction Employment	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
X1	Birth Registrations	Wis. Department of Health and Social Services
X2	Death Registgrations	Wis. Department of Health and Social Services
X3	Natural Net Gain in Population	Wis. Department of Health and Social Services
X4	Marriage Registrations	Wis. Department of Health and Social Services
X5	Consumer Price Index (Milwaukee)	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
X6	Index of Prices Received By Farmers	Wisconsin Department of Agriculture
X7	Net Gain in Residential Phone Access Lines	Wis. Telephone Co. and General Telephone Co.
X8	Labor Disputes, No. of Workers	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
X9	Manufacturing Employment	Wis. Dept. of Industgry, Labor and Human Relations

NOTES: Selected series are seasonally adjusted by the Bureau of the Census X-11 Variant of the Census Method II Seasonal Adjustment Program. The adjusted data are plotted on arithmetic scales.

SECTION A is a summary of recent data and current changes for all indicators and is presented in chart form. The indicators are presented with cyclical timing as the principle basis of classification.

SECTION B is a summary of Wisconsin Labor Force Estimates, including Employment, Unemployment and Unemployment Rates, and selected U.S. data.

SECTION C analyzes the Wisconsin labor force by industry and by specified Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

SECTION D singles out certain economic time series as being leading or coinciding in relation to movements in aggregate economic activity. They are seasonally adjusted and presented graphically. The indicators are grouped by cyclical timing.

DATA INCLUDES ALL FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME EMPLOYES WHO WORKED DURING, OR RECEIVED PAY FOR, ANY PART OF THE PAY PERIOD WHICH INCLUDES THE 12TH OF THE MONTH. PROPRIETORS, SELF-EMPLOYED PERSONS, DOMESTIC SERVANTS AND PERSONNEL OF THE ARMED FORCES ARE EXCLUDED. PEOPLE ON SICK LEAVE, VACATIONS, OR HOLIDAYS AND BEING PAID FOR THAT PERIOD BY THEIR EMPLOYER ARE CONSIDERED EMPLOYED. EARNINGS AND HOURS DATA PERTAIN TO PRODUCTION AND RELATED WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES. THE EARNINGS FIGURES ARE "GROSS" FIGURES, THAT IS, THEY REFLECT CHANGES IN WAGE RATES, SHIFT DIFFERENTIALS, AND PREMIUM PAY FOR OVERTIME WORK. THE HOURS FIGURES RELATE TO THE HOURS FOR WHICH PAY WAS RECEIVED AND ARE DIFFERENT FROM SCHEDULED OR STANDARD WORK HOURS.

ALL CURRENT MONTH DATA ARE PRELIMINARY. DUE TO BENCHMARK REVISIONS CURRENTLY-PUBLISHED DATA MAY DIFFER FROM PREVIOUSLY-PUBLISHED DATA FOR THE SAME MONTH. WISCONSIN DATA ARE CURRENTLY ADJUSTED TO EMPLOYMENT LEVELS OF 4TH QUARTER, 1982. BENCHMARK REVISIONS DURING THE MOST RECENT THREE YEARS FOR WISCONSIN TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT HAVE AVERAGED 0.6 PERCENT.

THE WISCONSIN ECONOMY

SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER

WISCONSIN'S LEADING INDICATORS OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY ARE POINTING TO A PAUSE IN SEPTEMBER. WHILE AT LEAST SOME OF THE INDICATORS SHOWED SOME POSITIVE GROWTH, THE INCREASE IS LESS THAN NORMAL FOR SEPTEMBER.

THE STATE'S EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND LABOR FORCE SITUATION IN SEPTEMBER HAD SOME PLUSES AND SOME NEGATIVES. WHILE EMPLOYMENT IS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL IN THREE YEARS AND UNEMPLOYMENT AT THE LOWEST, IMPROVEMENT FROM ONE MONTH EARLIER IS DISAPPOINTING.

LEADING INDICATORS

The average number of hours worked per week by manufacturing production workers increased slightly in September...but only slightly and less than the seasonally normal amount. Thus, the trend is down. Overtime hours in manufacturing remained constant, when, if the seasonal pattern was followed, they should have increased.

The average number weekly initial claims for unemployment compensation decreased by over 400 per week, but again, that drop should have been greater for September.

The single indicator showing positive gains in both actual number and trend for September is the number of business primary telephone access lines.

WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE

Unemployment throughout the state declined by 6,700 in September. That brings unemployment to its lowest level in the last three years. The number of jobless people peaked at about 335,000 at the depth of the last recession, and is estimated at less than half of that - 156,200 - in mid-September. However, the drop in the number of unemployed was the smallest August-to-September change in five years.

Employment at the same time decreased by 1,100 job-holders. That is a relatively weak decline. However, employment has grown between August and September in 8 out of the last 10 years. Non-farm wage and salary employment has reached its highest level in three years and, for the twelfth consecutive month, non-farm wage and salary employment is higher than the same month of one year earlier.

Local government clearly was the standout in September among all categories of payroll employment, accounting for 19,500 additional jobs. The added government employment resulted from hiring by mostly local units of government.

Manufacturing, the largest component of payroll employment, eliminated 4,200 jobs, which is unusual for September.

Two sectors -the services sector and the finance, insurance and real estate sector - cut employment, but by normal or less-than-normal numbers.

The trade sector showed relative improvement, gaining 600 jobs rather than losing its usual average of 2,600 in September.

Both the construction industry and the transportation and public utilities sector recorded normal or slightly better-than-normal gains.

It appears that the generally improving job market of recent months finally encouraged large numbers of people to enter, reenter, or remain in the labor force in anticipation of jobs. A developing recovery usually attracts people into the labor force, sometimes even in greater numbers than can be absorbed immediately.

Section

A WISCONSIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

INDICATOR	UNIT	MONTHLY SERIES Latest Month		Mo/Ago	Yr/Ago	% CHANGE Mo/Ago	% CHANGE Yr/Ago	AVG. 1983
LEADING INDICATORS								
L1 COMPOSITE INDEX OF LEADING INDICATORS								
Seasonally Adjusted	INDEX	70.7	Sep	74.1	69.4	-4.6	1.9	58.0
L2 AVG. WORK WEEK, MFG.								
Unadjusted	HOURS	41.2	Sep	41.0	41.6	0.5	-1.0	40.7
Seasonally Adjusted		41.0		41.1	41.4	-0.2	-1.0	
L3 AVG. OVERTIME HOURS, MFG.								
Unadjusted	HOURS	3.6	Sep	3.6	3.7	0.0	-2.7	2.8
Seasonally Adjusted		3.0		3.2	3.1	-6.2	-3.2	
L4 AVG. WEEKLY INITIAL CLAIMS								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	7,569	Sep	8,005	7,811	-5.4	-3.1	14,694
Seasonally Adjusted		10,859		10,031	11,210	8.3	-3.1	
L5 TOTAL JOB OPENINGS REC.								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	9,373	Sep	14,386	8,101	-34.8	15.7	7,099
Seasonally Adjusted		7,398		9,546	6,394	-22.5	15.7	
L6 NEW BUSINESS INCORPORATIONS								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	419	Sep	521	555	-19.6	-24.5	544
Seasonally Adjusted		413		560	547	-26.2	-24.5	
L7 NET GAIN IN BUSINESS PHONES ACCESS LINES								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	1,849	Sep	617	1,871	199.7	-1.2	892
Seasonally Adjusted		634		301	850	110.6	-25.4	
L8 BUILDING PLANS EXAMINED								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	523	Sep	538	440	-2.8	18.9	275
Seasonally Adjusted		472		520	397	-9.2	18.9	
ROUGHLY COINCIDING INDICATORS								
C1 HELP-WANTED INDEX (MILW.)								
Seasonally Adjusted	INDEX	57	Sep	52	57	8.8	0.0	38
C2 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, TOTAL								
Unadjusted	PERCENT	6.5	Sep	6.7	7.9	-	-	10.4
Seasonally Adjusted		7.4		7.2	9.1	-	-	
C3 NATURAL GAS SALES								
Unadjusted	MIL. THERMS	115.5	Aug	110.0	115.6	5.0	-0.1	247.9
Seasonally Adjusted		240.1		239.7	240.3	0.2	-0.1	
C4 NEW CAR REGISTRATIONS								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	17,917	Sep	17,709	10,873	1.2	64.8	14,429
Seasonally Adjusted		20,711		14,741	12,569	40.5	64.8	
C5 ELECTRIC POWER SALES								
Unadjusted	MIL. KWH	2052.2	Aug	1958.2	1959.7	4.8	4.7	1,765
Seasonally Adjusted		1919.7		1840.4	1833.3	4.3	4.7	
C6 TOTAL SECURITIES REGISTRATIONS								
Unadjusted	MIL. DOL.	113.6	Sep	85.7	209.1	32.6	-45.7	143.3
Seasonally Adjusted		144.7		135.0	266.5	7.2	-45.7	

Section

A WISCONSIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

INDICATOR	UNIT	MONTHLY SERIES			% CHANGE		AVG.
		Latest Month	Mo/Ago	Yr/Ago	Mo/Ago	Yr/Ago	1983
C7 PERSONAL INCOME							
Unadjusted	MIL. DOL.	4,788 Jul	4,837	4,426	-1.0	8.2	4,449
Seasonally Adjusted		4,783	4,803	4,421	-0.4	8.2	
C8 AVG. WEEKLY EARNINGS, MFG.							
Unadjusted	DOLLARS	408.29 Sep	403.03	402.27	1.3	1.5	398.01
Seasonally Adjusted		410.34	413.36	404.29	-0.7	1.5	
C9 CASH RECEIPTS FROM FARM MKTG.							
Unadjusted	MIL. DOL.	420.8 Jul	433.0	427.2	-2.8	-1.5	415.3
Seasonally Adjusted		408.9	444.6	415.0	-0.8	-1.5	
C10 CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION EMPL.							
Unadjusted	THOUS.	65.0 Sep	64.3	61.5	1.1	5.7	55.0
Seasonally Adjusted		58.1	56.8	55.0	2.3	5.6	
OTHER KEY INDICATORS							
X1 BIRTH REGISTRATIONS							
Unadjusted	NUMBER	6,280 Sep	6,114	6,628	2.7	-5.3	6,006
Seasonally Adjusted		5,981	5,817	6,312	2.8	-5.2	
X2 DEATH REGISTRATIONS							
Unadjusted	NUMBER	2,906 Sep	3,042	3,278	-4.5	-11.3	3,391
Seasonally Adjusted		2,962	3,307	3,343	-10.4	-11.4	
X3 NATURAL NET GAIN POPULATION							
Unadjusted	NUMBER	3,374 Sep	3,072	3,350	9.8	0.7	2,615
Seasonally Adjusted		2,962	2,575	2,941	15.0	0.7	
X4 MARRIAGE REGISTRATIONS							
Unadjusted	NUMBER	4,931 Sep	5,496	5,190	-10.3	-5.0	3,340
Seasonally Adjusted		3,612	3,857	3,802	-6.4	-5.0	
X5 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (MILW.)			(Jul)				
Unadjusted	INDEX	324.0 Sep	321.3	313.9	0.8	3.2	309.5
X6 PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS							
Unadjusted	INDEX	142 Sep	144	142	-1.4	0.0	142
Seasonally Adjusted		142	145	142	-2.1	0.0	
X7 NET GAIN IN RESIDENTIAL PHONES ACCESS LINES							
Unadjusted	NUMBER	8,748 Sep	2,873	10,266	204.5	-14.8	872
Seasonally Adjusted		824	119	587	314.1	40.4	
X8 LABOR DISPUTES, NO. OF WORKERS							
Unadjusted	NUMBER	464 Sep	104	7,515	346.2	-93.8	2,542
Seasonally Adjusted		354	61	5,726	480.3	-93.8	
X9 MANUFACTURING EMPL.							
Unadjusted	THOUS.	519.6 Sep	523.5	504.9	-0.7	2.9	486.0
Seasonally Adjusted		504.0	509.2	489.6	-1.0	2.9	

Section

B

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES SEPTEMBER	(In Thousands)			Pct. Chg.	
	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
Unadjusted					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	2421.4	2429.2	2418.2	-0.3	0.1
Employment (Inc. Labor Disputes)	2265.1	2266.2	2227.7	-0.0	1.7
Unemployment	156.2	162.9	190.5	-4.1	-18.0
Unemployment Rate	6.5	6.7	7.9	-	-
Seasonally Adjusted					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	2430.6	2422.3	2386.7	0.3	1.8
Employment (Inc. Labor Disputes)	2249.6	2247.0	2169.5	0.1	3.7
Unemployment	181.0	175.3	217.2	3.3	-16.7
Unemployment Rate	7.4	7.2	9.1	-	-

WISCONSIN EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES SEPTEMBER	(In Thousands)			Pct. Chg.	
	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS	1949.6	1929.6	1876.4	1.0	3.9
Unadjusted					
Manufacturing	519.2	523.4	497.4	-0.8	4.4
Mining	2.8	2.9	2.7	-3.4	3.7
Contract Construction	65.0	64.3	61.5	1.1	5.7
Transportation and Public Utilities	87.3	83.5	87.1	4.6	0.2
Elec., Gas and Sanitary Services	17.1	17.6	16.7	-2.8	2.4
Wholesale Trade	102.0	103.1	96.8	-1.1	5.4
Retail Trade	353.1	351.5	335.8	0.5	5.2
General Merchandise	45.3	44.8	43.3	1.1	4.6
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	100.0	100.8	97.5	-0.8	2.6
Banking	27.7	27.8	26.8	-0.4	3.4
Insurance	31.5	31.7	31.8	-0.6	-0.9
Service and Miscellaneous	409.0	409.5	390.1	-0.1	4.8
Hospitals	70.9	71.3	74.2	-0.6	-4.4
Private Education	24.7	21.1	22.4	17.1	10.3
Government	311.2	290.8	307.4	7.0	1.2
State Government	75.4	74.3	80.5	1.5	-6.3
Local Government	207.3	187.8	198.9	10.4	4.2

UNITED STATES LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES SEPTEMBER	(In Thousands)			Pct. Chg.	
	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
Seasonally Adjusted					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	113,699	113;494	112,229	0.2	1.3
Employment	105,239	104,969	101,876	0.3	3.3
Unemployment	8,460	8,526	10,353	-0.8	-18.3
Unemployment Rate	7.4	7.5	9.2	-	-

MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT *(Unadjusted)* SEPTEMBER	(In Thousands) Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago
All Manufacturing (Including Canning)	519.2	523.4	497.4
All Manufacturing (Excluding Canning)	499.2	502.8	478.1
Durable Goods	318.5	317.9	297.9
Lumber and Wood Prod., (Except Furniture)	22.7	23.0	21.0
Sawmills and Planning Mills	2.9	2.7	2.6
Millwork, Veneer, Plywood & Prefab. Wood Prod.	10.2	10.5	9.7
Furniture and Fixtures	10.1	10.1	9.2
Household Furniture	4.7	4.6	4.0
Stone, Clay and Glass Products	8.5	8.5	8.6
Concrete, Gypsum and Plaster Products	3.9	3.9	4.1
Primary Metal Industries	20.8	20.6	18.5
Iron and Steel Foundries	11.7	11.5	10.0
Fabricated Metal Products	50.9	50.9	49.8
Heating Equipment (Except Electrical) & Plumbing Fixtures	4.9	5.1	5.2
Fabricated Structural Metal Products	12.8	12.7	11.5
Metal Stampings	12.3	12.2	13.0
Machinery (Except Electrical)	98.2	97.6	86.5
Engines and Turbines	18.9	18.8	11.5
Farm Machinery and Equipment	12.9	12.9	12.9
Const., Min. & Material Handling Mach. & Equip.	13.1	13.0	12.9
Metalworking Machinery and Equipment	10.4	10.4	9.7
Special Industry Machinery (Except Metalworking)	10.2	10.1	9.6
General Industrial Machinery and Equipment	14.5	14.4	13.3
Service Industry Machines	7.6	7.6	7.3
Electrical Machinery, Equipment and Supplies	50.0	50.2	49.5
Electrical Industrial Apparatus	16.9	17.0	16.8
Household Appliances	6.6	6.6	6.6
Transportation Equipment	36.2	36.0	34.8
Motor Vehicles and Equipment	29.4	29.2	28.4
Instruments and Related Products	10.5	10.5	10.0
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	10.5	10.6	10.1
Nondurable Goods	200.7	205.5	199.5
Food and Kindred Products	70.6	73.2	72.4
Meat Products	12.7	14.2	13.7
Dairy Products	16.7	17.0	17.6
Canning and Preserving	20.1	20.6	19.3
Bakery Products	4.4	4.3	4.9
Beverage Industries	9.3	9.6	9.8
Textile Mill Products	5.1	5.2	4.5
Knitting Mills	4.4	4.4	3.7
Apparel and Other Finished Products	6.9	7.1	6.8
Paper and Allied Products	46.8	48.4	47.0
Pulp and Paper Mills	28.7	30.2	29.0
Converted Paper and Paperboard Products	9.5	9.6	9.5
Paperboard Containers and Boxes	7.4	7.3	7.4
Printing, Publishing and Allied Industries	34.1	34.3	32.8
Newspapers	11.0	11.0	10.5
Commercial Printing	14.2	14.3	13.7
Chemicals and Allied Products	9.4	9.6	9.3
Rubber and Misc. Plastics Products	19.1	19.1	17.6
Miscellaneous Plastics Products	14.4	14.5	13.3
Leather and Leather Products	8.3	8.3	8.8
Leather Tanning and Finishing	2.1	2.1	2.6
Footwear (Except Rubber)	4.4	4.3	4.4
Other Nondurable Goods	-	-	-

Section

C

WISCONSIN EARNINGS AND HOURS DATA

EARNINGS AND HOURS *(Unadjusted)* SEPTEMBER	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours		
	Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago
All Manufacturing (Incl. Canning)	$408	$403	$402	41.2	41.0	41.6
All Manufacturing (Excl. Canning)	417	412	412	41.2	41.0	41.4
Durable Goods	424	419	412	41.2	41.1	41.2
Lumber/Wood Prod. (Exc. Furn.)	300	304	309	40.5	40.8	42.0
Furniture and Fixtures	314	311	316	41.9	41.8	42.3
Stone, Clay and Glass Products	395	399	382	41.8	41.7	42.0
Primary Metal Industries	412	403	387	42.5	41.8	40.8
Iron and Steel Foundries	420	418	396	42.9	42.5	41.0
Fabricated Metal Products	402	402	403	39.7	40.3	40.7
Fab. Structural Metal Prod.	439	432	415	43.0	42.6	41.5
Metal Stampings	365	371	376	36.6	38.1	39.6
Machinery (Except Electrical)	475	469	444	41.7	41.4	41.0
Engines and Turbines	493	480	439	41.2	40.5	40.2
Farm Machinery and Equip.	505	507	507	41.3	41.2	42.2
Const. and Related Mach.	501	489	470	42.0	41.4	40.9
Metalworking Mach. and Equip.	515	503	434	44.0	43.5	39.9
Spec. Ind. Mach. (Exc. Metal).	480	481	474	43.3	43.2	44.3
Gen. Industrial Mach. and Equip.	490	502	457	41.5	42.5	40.6
Electrical Mach., Equip. and Supp.	396	390	382	41.3	41.1	40.9
Electrical Industrial Apparatus	449	436	419	43.4	42.5	42.2
Transportation Equipment	554	535	567	41.6	40.7	42.4
Instruments and Related Prod.	344	346	342	40.0	40.5	38.0
Nondurable Goods	382	379	388	41.1	40.9	42.2
Food and Kindred Products	330	336	351	40.1	40.0	42.2
Meat Products	317	364	421	38.5	39.1	41.2
Dairy Products	388	372	375	40.6	39.3	40.7
Textile Mill Products	288	289	267	41.1	41.3	39.0
Apparel and Other Fin. Prod.	233	230	231	37.8	37.9	39.2
Paper and Allied Products	515	510	491	45.7	45.6	45.3
Pulp and Paper Mills	556	550	526	46.8	46.8	46.2
Printing, Pub. and Allied Prod.	432	408	462	39.1	38.3	40.6
Chemicals and Allied Products	435	430	434	41.2	41.1	42.4
Rubber and Misc. Plastics Prod.	326	330	326	40.1	39.9	40.2
Leather and Leather Products.	251	250	262	37.8	37.7	39.5

Section

C WISCONSIN EARNINGS AND HOURS DATA

EARNINGS AND HOURS *(Unadjusted)* SEPTEMBER	Average Hourly Earnings Including O.T.			Average Hourly Earnings Excluding O.T.		
	Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago
All Manufacturing (Incl. Canning)	9.91	9.83	9.67	9.54	9.48	9.31
All Manufacturing (Excl. Canning)	10.13	10.05	9.95	9.74	9.68	9.56
Durable Goods	10.30	10.20	10.01	9.95	9.86	9.70
Lumber/Wood Prod. (Exc. Furn.)	7.41	7.44	7.36	7.37	7.30	7.16
Furniture and Fixtures	7.49	7.45	7.46	7.38	7.32	7.37
Stone, Clay and Glass Products	9.46	9.58	9.10	9.16	9.27	8.86
Primary Metal Industries	9.70	9.63	9.48	9.26	9.20	9.20
Iron and Steel Foundries	9.80	9.84	9.66	9.39	9.40	9.40
Fabricated Metal Products	10.13	9.98	9.89	9.64	9.54	9.48
Fab. Structural Metal Prod.	10.21	10.13	9.99	9.65	9.64	9.67
Metal Stampings	9.97	9.75	9.49	9.78	9.59	9.25
Machinery (Except Electrical)	11.38	11.33	10.84	11.03	11.01	10.64
Engines and Turbines	11.96	11.84	10.92	11.66	11.57	10.68
Farm Machinery and Equip.	12.23	12.31	12.01	12.05	12.12	11.79
Const. and Related Mach.	11.92	11.80	11.49	11.60	11.58	11.32
Metalworking Mach. and Equip.	11.70	11.57	10.87	11.05	11.01	10.66
Spec. Ind. Mach. (Exc. Metal) .	11.09	11.14	10.71	10.58	10.60	10.41
Gen. Industrial Mach. and Equip.	11.80	11.80	11.26	11.34	11.29	11.00
Electrical Mach., Equip. and Supp.	9.58	9.48	9.33	9.29	9.27	9.14
Electrical Industrial Apparatus	10.34	10.26	9.92	10.00	10.16	9.69
Transportation Equipment	13.32	13.15	13.37	12.76	12.57	12.70
Instruments and Related Prod.	8.61	8.55	8.99	8.46	8.33	8.79
Nondurable Goods	9.29	9.27	9.19	8.88	8.89	8.73
Food and Kindred Products	8.22	8.39	8.31	7.92	8.10	7.92
Meat Products	8.23	9.31	10.21	7.97	8.98	9.59
Dairy Products	9.56	9.47	9.22	9.14	9.09	8.81
Textile Mill Products	7.01	7.00	6.84	6.71	6.70	6.62
Apparel and Other Fin. Prod.	6.17	6.07	5.90	6.02	5.96	5.50
Paper and Allied Products	11.27	11.19	10.83	10.73	10.71	10.28
Pulp and Paper Mills	11.88	11.76	11.38	11.33	11.27	10.82
Printing, Pub. and Allied Prod.	11.05	10.64	11.38	-	-	-
Chemicals and Allied Products	10.55	10.47	10.23	10.29	10.23	9.97
Rubber and Misc. Plastics Prod.	8.14	8.26	8.12	7.87	7.86	7.83
Leather and Leather Products.	6.63	6.63	6.63	6.58	6.55	6.41

Section

C SUMMARY OF RECENT WISCONSIN DATA

EARNINGS AND HOURS, MFG. Production Workers (Unadjusted) SEPTEMBER	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings Including O.T.			Average Hourly Earnings Excluding O.T.	
	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Latest Month	Month Ago
United States	$375	$369	$363	40.7	40.4	40.8	9.22	9.14	8.89	-	-
Wisconsin	408	403	402	41.2	41.0	41.6	9.91	9.83	9.67	9.54	9.48
Selected Areas											
Appleton-Oshkosh (Calumet-Winnebago-Outagamie)	416	406	406	42.7	42.2	43.0	9.74	9.61	9.45	9.28	9.18
Beloit (City)	368	362	447	39.4	38.8	46.8	9.34	9.35	9.54	-	-
Eau Claire (Eau Claire-Chippewa)	409	437	384	41.0	42.0	40.9	9.97	10.40	9.39	9.77	9.93
Fond du Lac (County)	387	383	356	42.7	42.7	41.2	9.06	8.97	8.64	8.66	8.56
Green Bay (Brown County)	427	423	427	40.9	40.5	42.3	10.43	10.44	10.09	9.92	9.98
Janesville (City)	550	489	586	41.9	38.8	41.0	13.12	12.61	14.30	12.75	12.30
Janesville-Beloit (Rock County)	477	440	501	40.8	38.9	42.2	11.68	11.31	11.88	11.32	10.99
Kenosha (County)	480	478	515	40.4	40.6	42.6	11.88	11.77	12.08	11.45	11.26
La Crosse (County)	342	338	340	38.9	38.3	39.1	8.79	8.83	8.70	8.41	8.50
Madison (Dane County)	391	418	379	43.7	43.4	41.2	8.95	9.63	9.21	8.44	8.97
Manitowoc (County)	313	324	320	35.9	37.9	38.4	8.72	8.53	8.32	8.52	8.31
Milwaukee (Milwaukee-Ozaukee-Waukesha-Washington)	467	458	442	41.4	40.9	41.0	11.28	11.20	10.79	10.78	10.73
Racine (County)	427	425	420	39.5	39.6	41.1	10.80	10.73	10.22	10.36	10.31
Sheboygan (County)	369	372	376	38.8	39.5	40.4	9.50	9.41	9.31	9.19	9.10
Wausau (Marathon County)	393	396	393	41.6	42.2	42.4	9.44	9.38	9.28	9.03	8.94

EMPLOYMENT, MFG. (Unadjusted) SEPTEMBER	(In Thousands)			Percent Change	
	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
United States	19,894.0	19,850.0	18,971.0	0.2	4.9
Wisconsin	519.2	523.4	497.4	-0.8	4.4
Selected Areas					
Appleton-Oshkosh (Calumet-Winnebago-Outagamie)	48.0	48.6	46.6	-1.2	3.0
Beloit (City)	5.4	5.3	5.8	1.9	-6.9
Eau Claire (Eau Claire-Chippewa)	9.2	9.3	9.2	-1.1	0.0
Fond du Lac (County)	10.3	10.2	9.8	1.0	5.1
Green Bay (Brown County)	22.8	23.5	21.9	-3.0	4.1
Janesville (City)	11.3	11.2	10.7	0.9	5.6
Janesville-Beloit (Rock County)	19.1	19.0	18.8	0.5	1.6
Kenosha (County)	17.8	18.0	17.4	-1.1	2.3
La Crosse (County)	10.8	10.7	10.1	0.9	6.9
Madison (Dane County)	19.2	20.5	19.5	-6.3	-1.5
Manitowoc (County)	11.3	11.3	12.3	0.0	-8.1
Milwaukee (Milwaukee-Ozaukee-Waukesha-Washington)	169.8	169.6	158.0	0.1	7.5
Racine (County)	25.0	25.1	24.5	-0.4	2.0
Sheboygan (County)	19.1	19.3	17.7	-1.0	7.9
Wausau (Marathon County)	11.8	11.8	11.3	0.0	4.4

UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS UNDISGUISED

by Joseph Tumpach, Jr.

"I don't believe the unemployment rate is so low. You can prove anything you want with statistics. You can lie with statistics." Such a statement is likely in the thoughts of many who hear official government figures on one hand and know friends and neighbors out of work on the other. We hear official talk of a "full-employment rate" of 4.5, 6, or even 6.5 percent unemployment. Many wonder how there can be full employment when 6.5 percent of the labor force is unemployed.

An opposite argument exists. "Numbers don't lie. Figures express impersonal, hard, cold fact. Those who don't trust numbers reveal their own ignorance in dealing with numbers." It is certainly true that many people are uncomfortable with numbers. And, employment and unemployment statistics can be confusing.

These attitudes are particularly distressing because unemployment statistics - the unemployment rate, in particular - are almost universally watched, and are front-page and nationally-broadcast news. Ask an individual, even someone with absolutely no interest in economics, to name a statistic from the news. He or she will probably mention the unemployment rate....

One fear attending the unemployment figures is that they are produced by government agencies and that politicians can manipulate the statistics for political purposes...particularly the national figures. The logic is that we can sense a too low unemployment rate when several of our neighbors are out of work or if the help-wanted ads in the local newspaper are scarce. But, how can we have a feeling for unemployment throughout the country? We must trust the national bureaucrats when they proclaim unemployment decreased by 8 million.

That political problem was foreseen 100 years ago when President Chester Arthur signed the bill creating the national Bureau of Labor Statistics. The commissioner of the Bureau, to this day, is appointed to a fixed 4-year term, unlike cabinet officers and other political appointees who serve at the pleasure of the President. Thus, the Bureau is assured of stability and independence from political pressure. Yet, the national unemployment rate is criticized. One of the difficulties is that no single definition of what constitutes unemployment has been devised that satisfies all economic and social groups concerned with such statistics. Uncounted, for example, are unemployed persons who become discouraged from seeking work and drop out of the labor force. Included, however, as unemployed are people waiting to be recalled to a job from which they had been laid off, and people waiting to report to a new job within 30 days. While these people are unemployed, they fully expect to report to a job. Thus, a full-employment unemployment rate of, say, six percent, results.

In addition to the national employment, unemployment and labor force figures published each month by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, each state government publishes a set of figures for its state. Regardless of whose numbers one looks at, all the figures are estimates, not actual counts.

The national BLS estimates are derived from a random survey of over 50 thousand households across the nation.. This survey, called the Current Population Survey or CPS, captures a statistically reliable sample of employment and

unemployment. Accurate and reliable estimates can be obtained from sampling. The national employment and unemployment data, as well as data for the most populated states, is sound because the CPS sample is large

Because the CPS sample is not large enough in Wisconsin, however, the state's Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations must use a combined approach to estimate employment and unemployment. Unlike the sampling procedure used in the CPS method, the state's "Handbook" method uses counts such as the number of people working for Unemployment Compensation-covered employers, and the number of people collecting unemployment checks. Since these counts are only a portion of the defined employed and unemployed, estimates of unpaid family workers, self-employed, new labor force entrants, and re-entrants are calculated to arrive at employment and unemployment totals. The numbers arrived at by the Handbook method must then be adjusted to those resulting from the CPS method. "...must then be adjusted..."?

Why adjust the numbers to make the two results match? Isn't that manipulation of the figures? Here's why. Congress decided to use the unemployment rate as a guide for allocating the large pool of federal funds to the various states. The allocation process goes like this: the national CPS estimates of employment and unemployment are the standard that all states must adjust to when determining unemployment rates. In other words, to make the allocation process work, state unemployment totals must add to 100 percent of the national figure. If it turns out that Wisconsin has, say, two percent of the total U.S. unemployment, then our state receives two percent of the federally allocated funds. That explains the seemingly-unnecessary adjustment.

But does that mean Wisconsin's Handbook estimates are less accurate than the CPS estimates? No. In fact, we know that the CPS survey introduces random error into the state estimates. However, the Handbook method is unfair for use as a federal resource allocator. Briefly, such things as state unemployment compensation laws affect the unemployment rate. Wisconsin, compared to many other states, has a rather liberal law. In our state, the burden of proof as to whether a claimant is actually seeking work (and thus counted as unemployed) lies with the state. In many other states, the burden of proof is on the claimant. Consequently, a more liberal state such as Wisconsin would tend to report higher unemployment, and be eligible for more federal dollars.

Another perspective of the employment and unemployment numbers provides business managers, union leaders, educators, government officials and workers with data necessary to evaluate trends and cycles in the employment situation. To judge trends in the labor market from month to month, seasonal adjustment is necessary. Seasonally adjusted employment and unemployment numbers do not represent numbers of workers employed and unemployed; they represent a short-term trend. Employment is influenced by forces related to the season of the year. Seasonally overloaded employment situations occur, for example, in construction activities, as might be expected, in June, July and August. While high unemployment for construction workers occurs in January, February and March. Retail trade employment is seasonally affected in November and December as christmas buying traditionally begins

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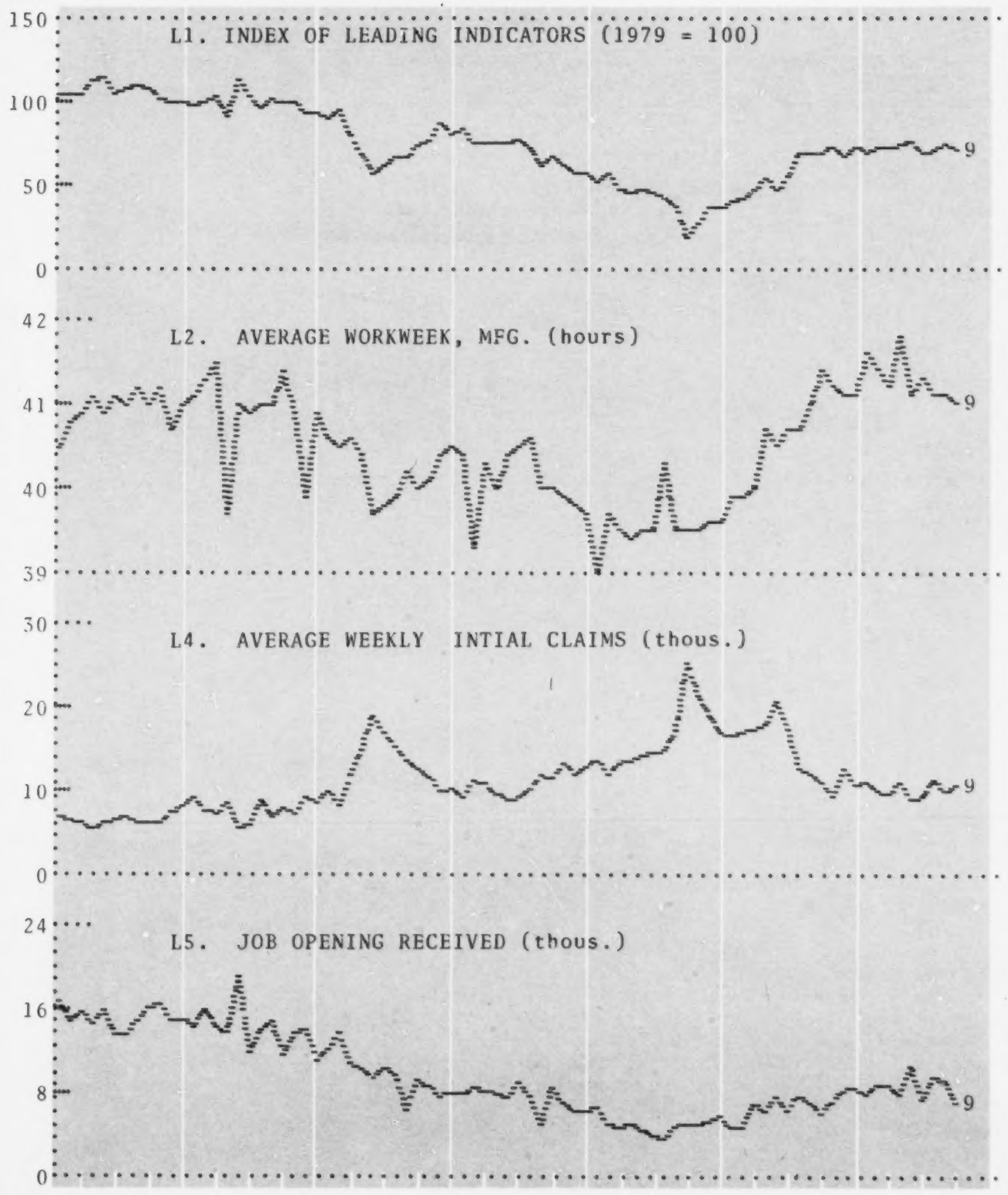

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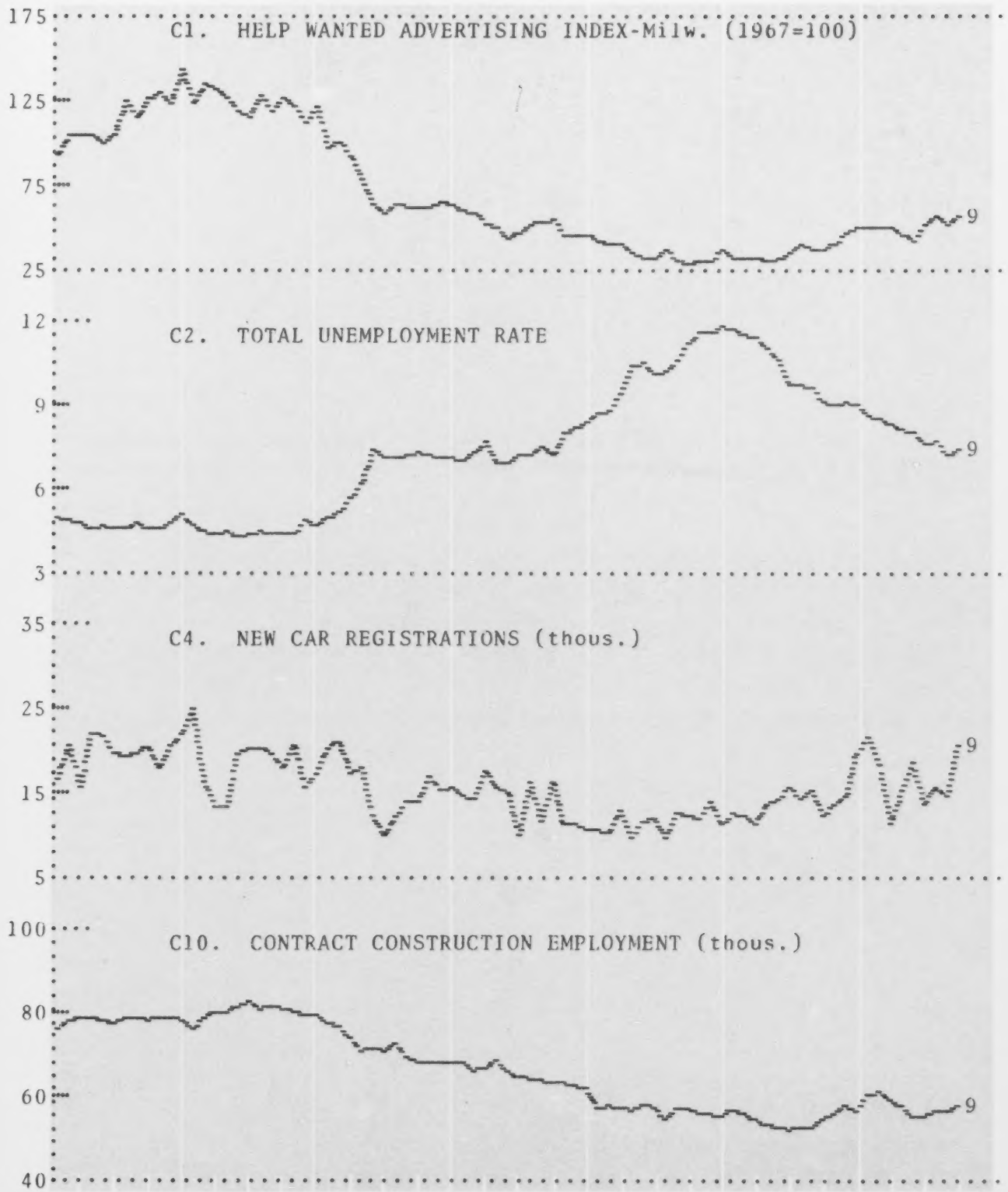

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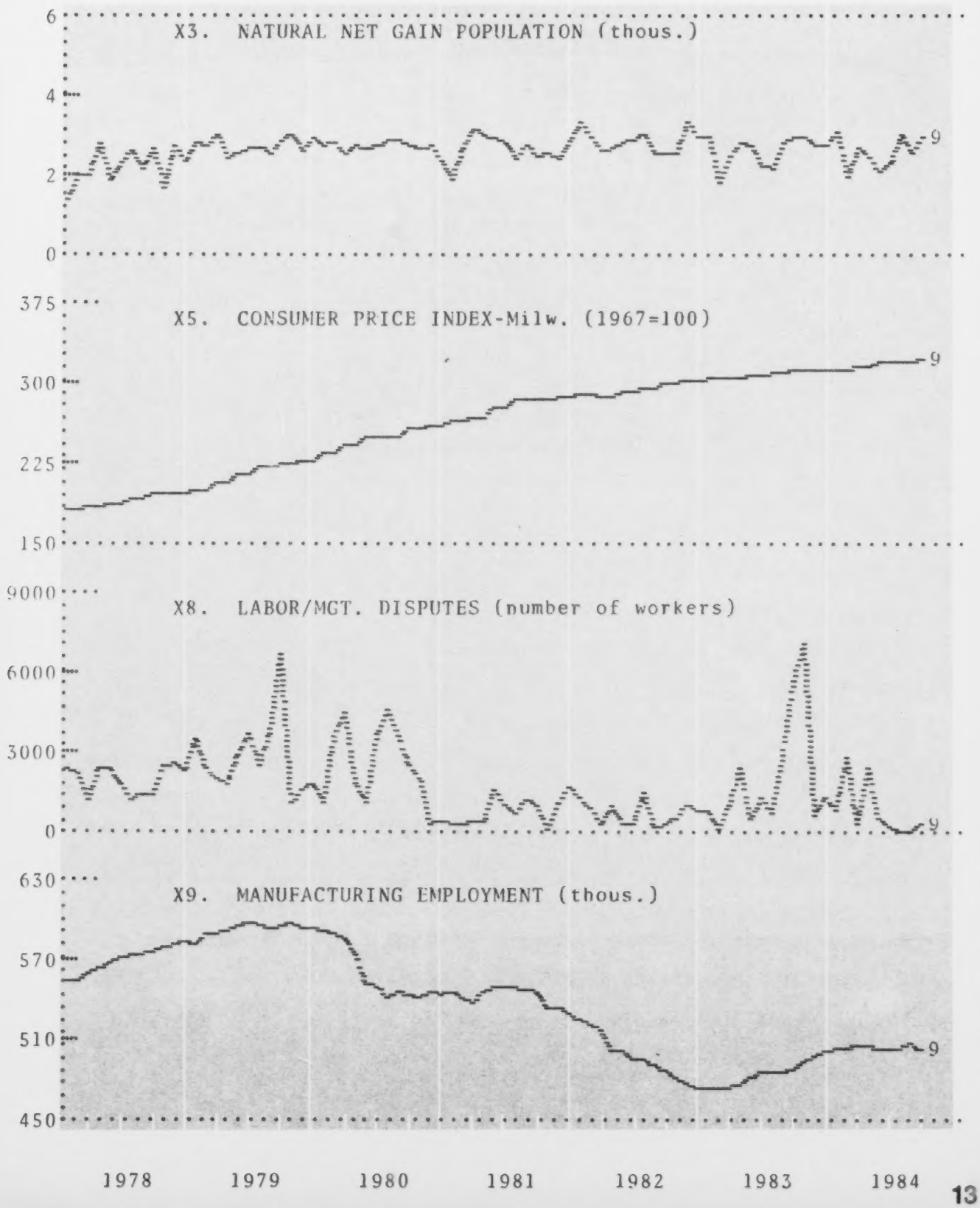

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(Continued from Page 10)

after Thanksgiving. Employment data which is not seasonally adjusted might suggest an economic turning-point which in reality is nothing more than a seasonal concern.

Suppose, for example, a specific area normally employs 1,000 construction workers in August and 900 during September. If, during 1984, construction employment was 1,000 and 950 for August and September, a person unfamiliar with the area's usual employment situation might be alarmed at the 5 percent decrease. However, a labor market analyst might report that seasonally adjusted construction figures might have been 850 in August and 900 in September (depending on the seasonal adjustment factors for those months). In fact, the trend would be up for construction employment despite a decrease in the actual number of workers employed. Unadjusted, construction employment decreased; seasonally adjusted, it increased.

The employment and unemployment figures produced each month, whether seasonally adjusted or not, are estimates only, whether Wisconsin's estimates or national. Can we ever determine the amount of error in sample-based estimates? Yes, with benchmarking. An employment benchmark is a reasonably complete count of employment. The rebenchmarking of employment and unemployment figures is done once a year. Each monthly estimate for the past two years is adjusted so that the final monthly estimate agrees with the complete-count benchmark. Information on which to build Wisconsin industry employment and unemployment benchmarks comes from employers. Each employer, except non-profit industries and inter-state railroads, must file quarterly reports on their employment level. These reports determine the unemployment compensation tax obligation of an employer. The non-profit and railroad industry workers are accounted for, and thus, the sample-derived estimates are adjusted to a true count of employment and unemployment.